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COUNTRY

USIA (Georgia)

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SUBJECT

Secret Work at Kelasuri and Lako Ritaa

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. In Kelasuri (probably 42°58'N, 41°05'E), 5 kms. from Sukhumi, work is being carried out in secrecy. Russian and German engineers are in charge. German engineers and their families have been observed coming into Sukhumi in automobiles to do their marketing.
2. [REDACTED] soldiers working at Lake Ritse (listed at 43°30'N, 40°40'E but unlocated); that a two-lane asphalt road was being built around the lake in May 1947. It should have been completed on 25 May 1947. On the shores of the lake, various buildings were being constructed, including a peculiar one which was said to be a sanatorium. According to Russian officers, the number of soldiers working there was 5,000, belonging to various engineer units. At about 40 kms. along the road from Sukhumi to Ritse there was a sentry who forbade civilians to pass. There was also a sign which said that the road was under repair, but nowhere on the road were any repairs being made and the road was in excellent condition throughout; it was paved with asphalt. There is a small one-story building on the shore of Lake Ritse which is used by Stalin for his summer residence. The approaches to the shores of Lake Ritse are very sheer. The purpose of the work being done there is not known, but the work is reported to be carried out in relative secrecy. Only soldiers are employed there.

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() Comment: The installations described above are probably connected
with those reported in ()

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